

original experiments. I am inclined to agree with him. But probability is not enough. We want Mr Tyrrell to produce an absolute proof, and to do that there must be no possibility of "Fisking" on the part of either operator or percipient. I think that Mr Tyrrell's electrical recording apparatus when used with a mechanical selector secures that condition.

G. W. FISK.

REVIEWS

Evidence of Personal Survival from Cross Correspondences. H. F. SALTmarsh. Bell ("Psychical Experiences" Series). 3s. 6d. net.

Many people, who are well equipped to discuss the evidence in most branches of psychical research, fight shy of the subject of cross-correspondences. It is treated as a "highbrow" region of research, requiring scholarship for its proper appreciation. In point of fact, where literary and classical allusions are concerned, once a scholarly investigator has identified and explained the contexts there is little demand upon the student except for sustained attention. Human dislike for this effort is, however, much fortified by the habit of regarding "the classics" as a specialised and a formidable subject. Also, the sense of being on unfamiliar ground makes the student feel that he is being led blindly. Many people experience similar feelings, and a similar psychological resistance, at the mere sight of figures in quantitative research.

Mr Saltmarsh's short epitome and discussion of typical S.P.R. cross-correspondences and their significance makes a general grasp of the subject many times easier. It is a model of clear condensation and dispassionate exposition, and opens up a direct pathway for the inquirer. A brief and fair statement of the established probabilities concerning paranormal faculty is followed by a sufficient description of the automatists concerned. We then have the "Plan of Cross-Correspondences" simply explained, and chapters follow giving "simple" and "complex" examples. The latter are most ably summarised, though Mr Saltmarsh remarks that in the process "it is quite certain . . . that a good deal of the evidential value has been lost. In a way this may not be altogether a bad thing" (he adds), "for it can be fairly said that I have not overstated my case." The last phrase prompts the comment that the statement throughout is in the spirit of judicial summing-up and not of advocacy.

A further study is made of the highly interesting "Statius" and "Ear of Dionysius" cases—both better known by their titles than by their content—which, though not strictly examples of evidence based on cross-corresponding clues, are in a similar category in their appearance of being puzzles set by a communicator for solution by the verifiers. It is, indeed, a relevant procedure to set the evidence of design in these cases alongside of the evidence of design furnished by cross-correspondences. If there is method in both, it is one method with variety of application. Mr Saltmarsh speaks of "strong evidence" of design; as he has suggested in his introductory chapter, and re-affirms in his concluding discussion, "the scientific method cannot yield certainty"; but it fulfils its function when, as here, it reveals the true grounds of hypotheses, and clarifies our judgment of the reality and meaning of evidence.

The Psychic World. HEReward CARRINGTON. Methuen. 12s. 6d.

The publishers do this book a disservice, in the eyes of serious students, when they describe it in capitals on the dust-cover as "A complete, readable and fully documented history of the entire field of psychic phenomena". It is not a history, and is not presented as one; nor does it make the least pretension to cover the entire field. It is a collection of studies, and of articles assembled from Mr Carrington's contributions to different journals, on a number of topics with which psychical research is concerned; a Part II, about one-third of the whole, being devoted to "Psychic Phenomena among Primitive Peoples". The latter section makes some attempt, in a hundred pages, to include a little of everything from a great many geographical sources, and contains perhaps the most interesting matter in the book, though the practices of some of the peoples who are mentioned receive rather scanty and superficial attention. In the earlier portion, a chapter on "The Psychology of 'Spirit Communication'" gives, at least, material for psychological consideration. Mr Carrington describes how he obtained and kept a sealed letter for the purpose, eventually, of post-mortem reference. Some years later he asked the writer if she could recall what was in the letter; she had not only forgotten what it was about, but "absolutely denied ever having written any such letter at all!"

Science and Psychical Research. G. N. M. TYRRELL. Methuen. 12s. 6d. net.

This work has been received, and will be reviewed later in *Proceedings*.